



September, 1981

Volume 1, No. 3

Toronto Blissymbol Day boosts morale

We admit that it is untimely to be reporting on a May event for publication in the September issue of the Bulletin. However, regardless of this fact, we feel that readers may be interested in a most successful Blissymbol Day celebration held at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre (OCCC) in Toronto.

Blissymbol Day planners, Sachi Tamura and Lynette Norris are to be congratulated for organizing what BCI and the Augmentative Communication Service (ACS) consider an excellent Blissymbol awareness program.

In March, a competition to create a Blissymbol placemat was open to all BCI and ACS staff. Penny Parnes, director of the service, won the event and her placemat was printed on mass and used in the OCCC cafeteria during lunch on Blissymbol Day.

The OCCC cafeteria was inundated with many other reminders of the occasion. These included a series of Blissymbol food posters, table cards outlining the day's events, and an attractive and prominent bulletin board display designed by Marny Loach, ACS.

Afternoon activities began with an open house in the BCI and ACS offices. The turnout surpassed all expectations. This may have been due to the abundance of punch and fine food, most of which was homemade by staff and decorated — with Blissymbols of course.

Visitors to the open house had the opportunity to see computers and audio-visual presentations, to converse with symbol users, and to become familiar with what goes on within BCI and ACS.

The Breakthrough, a new documentary, was shown in late afternoon. All OCCC and Easter Seal Society Staff had time off to see the film and remained past working hours to participate in a brief discussion.

Marny Loach generously provided cups of popcorn to the film-goers. At the

bottom of one of the cups was printed a Blissymbol. The fortunate recipient of that particular cup was declared the winner of a Blissymbol T-shirt printed with "Happiness is Communication".

In fact, most BCI and ACS staff wore the above mentioned T-shirts all day. We received many requests for these items and ask that anyone interested in purchasing a shirt write to:

Sandra Osborn
The Cripple Children Society of
Orange County
1600 Silver Star Road
Orlando, Florida
32804

The finale of Blissymbol Day was marked by a warm and enjoyable dinner at a local restaurant. The evening was attended by the many staff and friends who helped make Blissymbol Day such a success.

BCI strongly recommends that other centres and groups hold Blissymbol Days in their areas. Besides serving as an effective public relations tool, Blissymbol Day is a great deal of fun. Take it from us.



Staff and friends enjoy a relaxing meal after successful Blissymbol Day Celebrations

Symbol Section

The Symbol Office has been working on many projects since the last issue of the Bulletin. Below are listed just a few items that readers may find particularly interesting.

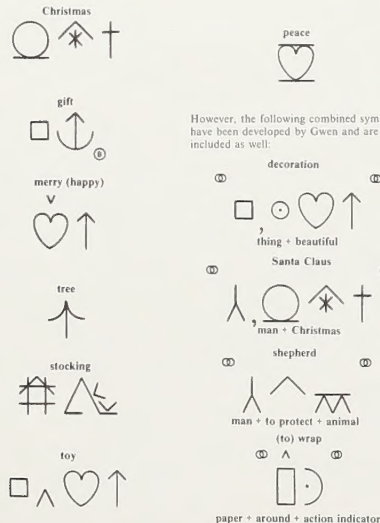
A re-print of Anne Warrick's Pre-school Book, of special interest to instructors.

A chapter by Shirley McNaughton, in Black and Nagel's Physically Handicapped Children: A Medical Atlas for Teachers, second edition. The title of the chapter is "Interacting is Communication."

For those who showed interest in Gwen Mann's first series of books, the Symbol Office is now working on a second series of "Special Days".

The Christmas book of the series may be of significant help to instructors in future years. Unfortunately it will not be ready for this Christmas.

Of course the standard symbols were included.



However, the following combined symbols have been developed by Gwen and are included as well:

One combined symbol required lots of thought. What is the wiseman? Which of the following is he?



Gwen finally decided that a wiseman is:



What would your Blissymbol user create for this concept?

A SYMBOL EXPRESSION ENCLOSED BETWEEN COMBINE INDICATORS SIGNALS THAT THE PARTICULAR SYMBOL GROUPING ILLUSTRATES ONE POSSIBLE WAY OF REPRESENTING THIS MEANING IN BLISSYMBOLS. SUCH A COMBINED SYMBOL IS NOT AT PRESENT A PART OF THE STANDARD BCI BLISSYMBOL VOCABULARY.

B indicates - I) a symbol which differs from the C.K. Bliss version either in symbol form or accompanying wording or - 2) a new BCI symbol authorized in the absence of requested comment from C.K. Bliss.

Conference Report

Blissymbolics at RESNA event

Blissymbols were well represented at the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America's fourth annual conference held in Washington August 31 through September 3.

Several papers presented were related to the Application of Blissymbols.

1. Microprocessors and Communications for the Handicapped by Ann Colquhoun, Shirley McNaughton, Brian Wilson and Maurice Izzard.
2. A multi-language Portable, Text-to-Speech System for the Disabled by Rolph Carlson, K. Galyas, Bjorn Granstrom, Sheri Hunnicutt, Bjorn Larsson and Lennart Neovius.
3. Sahara II: Speech Prosthesis for the Non-speaking Handicapped by Francoise Emerard, Patrick Gailloit and André Sylvestre.
4. A Clinical Evaluation Procedure for Communication Equipment for the Speech Impaired — a case study with

recommendations on the Blissymbol Terminal and M.C.C.S. by Ron Levy, Keila Waksvik and Peter Nelson.

Several displays at the conference demonstrated Blissymbolics.

1. The Department of Speech Communication and Music Acoustics, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden demonstrated Blissymbols and synthetic speech.
2. The Rehabilitation Engineering Centre, Children's Hospital at Stanford displayed a Blissymbol printer.
3. The Trace Centre, University of Wisconsin, Madison demonstrated Blissymbols and synthetic speech.
4. The Blissymbolics Communication Institute displayed the Norpak Blissymbol terminal, the Blissymbol printer with the autocom, the Apple computer, and Teldion.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the developing capabilities of synthetic speech, the evaluation of the Stanford printer, Blissymbols and Teldion, and the progress of BLISSCII.

Greg Vanderheiden and Frederick Moell were joined by David Kelso and Fraser Shein to further refine the coding system for BLISSCII. This work continues and additional news about BLISSCII will appear in future Bulletins.

Copies of the conference proceedings may be obtained from:

Northwestern University
Rehabilitation Engineering Program
345 East Superior Street
Room 1441
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Symbol users demonstrated their skills and creativity at the first ever computer recital held at BCI in late July.

BCI assists in printer evaluation

In cooperation with BCI, the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre, Children's Hospital, Stanford is developing a Blissymbolic "Printer".

This device offers a less expensive alternative to other systems being developed. It uses a microcomputer to print Blissymbols on a dot matrix printer. The printer provides a choice of 240 Blissymbols arranged on a horizontal cylinder.

The current model of the Blissymbolic "Printer" is a prototype and will undergo field testing this fall. BCI is assisting in the evaluation. For further information contact BCI or: Auston Ellmore, Rehabilitation Engineering Centre, Children's Hospital, Stanford, 520 Willow Road, Palo Alto, California 94304, (415) 327-4800.

Memos, memos, memos, memos, memos,

Good News

Mel Cohen, director of the Blissymbolics Resource Centre in Loma Linda, California is now a senior presenter.

Sue Sansone, director of the Blissymbolics Resource Centre in Bohemia, N.Y., is pleased to announce that the Suffolk Association for the Help of Retarded Children is allowing her additional time and space to expand her resource centre activities.

Doug Allison
EBSCO Curriculum Materials
EBSCO Industries
P.O. Box 1943
Birmingham, AL 35201
U.S.A.

Jaroma M., M.D.
Lonnqvist B., speech therapist
Heinon N., lecturer in speech pathology
The Finnish Association of Blissymbolics
Communication
Department of Phoniatrics
University Central Hospital of Kuopio, Finland

To receive this paper contact Dr. Jaroma at the above address.

Xmas Cards

Last year, BCI sold a series of Christmas cards beautifully designed by Sue Sansone, director of the Resource Centre in Bohemia, N.Y.. They were extremely attractive and popular. This year Sue has created a series of two designs, 20 cards to a box. The price for a box of these cards is \$6.50 (Canadian) and \$6.00 (American).

In addition, as a Christmas special, BCI is offering the old 1978 and 1979 cards at the reduced rate of \$2.00 per package. There are 12 cards in each package.

Please send any orders for Christmas cards to Mary Leaf, BCI.

Brochures

For those who would like to assist BCI in spreading information about Blissymbols, brochures are available for distribution. Anyone wishing to order a quantity of these at no charge, should contact Diana Peacock, Information Co-ordinator, BCI.

Products

Residents of the United States should be sending all requests for Blissymbol products to EBSCO as they are the exclusive American distributor. The address is:

Finnish paper

The following paper is available in English: **Blissymbols in Finland — A short time observation of Bliss therapy by:**

Publishing News

From symbols, to words, to poetry

There are many fascinating success stories about Blissymbolics and communication. However, once in a while, a truly extraordinary account of a symbol user comes to our attention. This is one of them.

John Walker, a 19-year-old, non-speaking, cerebral palsied fellow from St. Catharines, Ontario is on the brink of becoming a published poet.

It is not easy for poets to get published. Despite this fact, Eleanor Sniderman, owner of Proclaim Publishing and wife of Sam Sniderman of Sam's Records, was sufficiently impressed by John's work to take on the production of a very special book.

Titled A Fragile Tree Has Roots, the 68-page text will contain both poems and illustrations. John's poetry was brought to Mrs. Sniderman's attention by his sister, Leslie, who is quite involved in the music and entertainment industry.

John's book will be expensive to produce for two reasons. First, the number of copies will be limited. Second, Mrs. Sniderman feels that the book should be

constructed in a durable enough fashion for readers like John, such materials are costly.

Mrs. Sniderman will only use the best production methods and expects each copy of A Fragile Tree Has Roots to cost about \$6.95. Hoping that the book can be a project for the International Year, she is now trying to raise funds.

John learned Blissymbols during a three-year period at Chedoke Hospital and uses eye-pointing to access the system. "Blissymbols opened a door", John's Mother explains gratefully.

Before acquiring Blissymbols, John spent a great deal of time listening to his collection of records. In fact, he knew every word of every song on every album. The first message John communicated using symbols was "I want to speak through my records". To create a poem, John uses symbols to indicate an album, a cut, and a word. He then combines the words to compose his own verse.

While Mrs. Walker points out the laborious nature of John's work, and that helping him is a time-consuming and often tiring process, she is quick to emphasize that the rewards are well worth the effort.

John Walker's poetry is most introspective and reveals a thoughtful and creative individual. We wish him well in his endeavours.

It would be marvellous if A Fragile Tree Has Roots could find the funds to nourish its blossoming during 1981.

Reasons Why

Thinking proudly
They don't understand
Throwing your mind to the sky
Just as the sun is rising
Try to realize
A life with chains and double locks
This body of mine

John C. Walker

© 1981 Proclaim Publications Inc.

News from Training

Rising costs affect BCI training fees

In order to maintain the quality of BCI elementary training, it has become necessary to increase session fees and training kit prices. The new fee structure came into effect Aug. 8, 1981.

BCI realizes that many other organizations are being hit by severe budget constraints and has tried to make its fee schedule and workshop format as flexible as possible to accommodate the needs of instructors in the hosting regions.

It is hoped that BCI's policy of maintaining a constant fee over the past two years has helped communities in their beginning months with Blissymbols. The utmost will be done in the months ahead to find new ways to provide elementary training in ways that relate to the changing economy.

New ways in Ontario

The BCI Training Department and the Augmentative Communication Service (ACS) of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre (OCCC) are working to develop new formats that will facilitate the training of instructors in Ontario.

By taking such training initiatives in Ontario, BCI and ACS expect to provide increased support to Blissymbol users in the province. In addition, this will offer examples of training programs to serve as models elsewhere.

The first innovation in training begins Oct. 8, 1981. The Separate School Board in Guelph, Ontario is sponsoring a workshop for fifty employees to take place on three Thursdays in October.

Presentors from Toronto are able to drive to and from Guelph on the workshop days, eliminating the cost of overnight accommodation. The week between workshop sessions will give participants time to digest presented material more fully.

It is hoped this training model will help other communities within easy driving distance of metropolitan Toronto and other centres in which there is a BCI presenter.

Another format is now available to Ontario instructors. BCI senior presentors who also work as augmentative communication consultants with ACS are looking forward to providing elementary training sessions in Blissymbolics, followed by two days of consultation, help with in-service presentations, community orientation, and program planning for students. This week with specialists, stressing augmentative communication and including elementary training in Blissymbolics, should be helpful to many communities.

Up-to-date Schedule

Elementary training sessions scheduled for the balance of 1981:

Calgary, Nov.
San Jose, Nov.
Toronto, Dec.
Quebec, Nov.
Cornwall, Ont., Nov.

Elementary training sessions scheduled for 1982:

Loma Linda Cal., March
Greenvale, N.Y., April
Bohemia, N.Y., Summer

Correspondence — Workshop courses:

Philadelphia, Sept. - Dec. (1981)
Bohemia, N.Y., Dec. - April (1981)
Orlando, Jan - March (1982)

Special Interest Workshops:

Toronto — Multi-handicapped and mentally retarded.

For up-to-date training schedules please contact Georgina Westdyk, workshop co-ordinator.

Through the U.K. Resource Centre, Ena Davies and Jill Jenkinson presented and the first Blissymbolics workshop in **Lisbon** in May, 1981 and, in September, the first training session in **Africa**. Keila Waksvik is in Europe this fall working with Jean Destrooper to present workshops in **Belgium, France, Spain, and Switzerland**. Hermann Frey, a 1980 intern, is now giving the first workshops in **Germany** and another recent intern, Pina Gennaro is planning the first presentations in **Italy**. Mel Cohen in California is responding to a training request that came to the BCI office for workshops in **Guam, the Philippines, and Taiwan**.

Good luck to all those involved in these exciting projects.

NEW TORONTO FEES

The fees for attending Toronto workshops in 1982 will range from \$103.00, covering only attendance fee and worksheets, to a maximum of \$250.00 which includes attendance fees, worksheets, materials, examination, certification and subscriptions.

Note: New Address

We are finding that the film **Now I Can Speak** which was originally produced for use in BCI Training Sessions, is proving to be very well received in community presentations and general orientation sessions. It is 20 minutes long and shows a lot about Blissymbol Communication and its users.

Information re purchase or rental is available from:

Kathleen Shea
Cinema Concepts International
56 Shaftesbury Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 1G4 416-967-6503

Note to researchers

BCI's licence to publish and disseminate symbols for worldwide use by the disabled, provides the authority to sub-license others to do so as well.

Therefore, BCI will provide researchers with a sublicense giving them BCI consent to use BCI standard symbols. This includes the use of symbols with a study and in reports and professional papers arising from it.

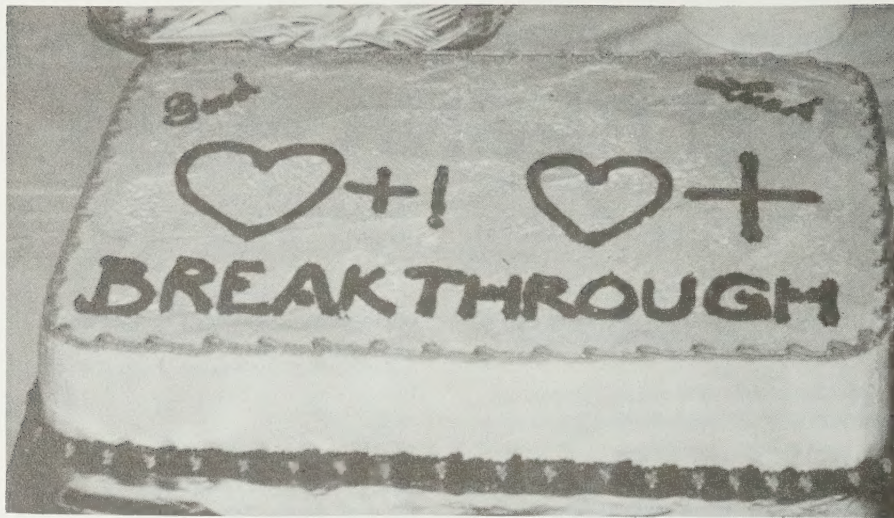
The sub-licence provides the licensee with a copy of the symbols required for the study.

For further information, contact Jinny Storr, BCI Symbol Officer.

ASHA Coverage

Blissymbols appeared on the August, 1981 cover of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association magazine.

This particular issue features a section on aids for non-speaking and the computer generated color art of Blissymbols, on the cover, most decoratively draws readers into the publication.



"Breakthrough Wins Award"

The Bijou Awards for makers of short films, documentaries, and TV Programmes, were held in Toronto recently. We are proud to announce that "Breakthrough" was awarded the prize for the Best Independent Production. Our congratulations to Lauron Productions.

Newsletter back issues

BCI has a limited collection of early newsletters in storage and is making three issues available to interested readers.

This offer may be of particular interest to recent subscribers who wish to catch up on the valuable information contained in older issues.

The fee for each Newsletter is \$2.00 or \$5.00 for the set of three. Please note that BCI has only a limited number in stock.

The following is a list of contents.

Fall 1978

1. A case report describing the use of Blissymbolics with a severely dysphasic patient.

2. Some ideas for games.
3. Descriptions of several Blissymbol users.
4. The first Symbol Users' Corner.

March 1979

1. Article on cathedral coding.
2. One approach to teaching verbs.
3. Some ideas for games.
4. Resource centre news.

March 1981

1. Thirteen articles contributed by the Augmentative Communication Service of the Ontario Crippled Children Centre.

BACK ISSUE ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Fall 1978 ☐

March 1979 ☐

March 1981 ☐

Please enclose cheque payable to BCI.

Up & Coming

The BCI tenth anniversary celebration has, unfortunately, been postponed. Further news as to when it will be held and the kinds of events to expect will appear in the January Bulletin.

The next issue of the CP Quebec Association newspaper will highlight non-verbal communication. Anyone interested in receiving a copy should write:

Lyne Poitras

Association de Paralyse Cérébrale du Québec.

525 Boul. Hamel Est.

Suite A50

Quebec G1M 2S8

A new book is being written in Blissymbols.

The Christmas Story, the first in an illustrated series titled the Story of Jesus is being written in Blissymbols By Paul Theriault. The text will be ready for Christmas giving. Symbol users, parents and instructors may obtain a free copy by writing to:

Paul Theriault

25 Richard Street

P.O. Box 354

Ridgetown, Ontario

Canada

N0P 2C0

Staff update

Ann Kennedy, Pat Nearing, Susan Parkin and Maddy Spicer to the Administration Office; Janet Thordarson and Georgina Westdyk to the Training Department; Margrit Beesley, Kathy Lee, Brian Wilson to the Augmentative Communication Service.



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The Bulletin is a publication for the staff and associate members of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute. Editor, Carol Barrett

Send letters, suggestions and news items to:

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